

Message Text

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21

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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1. THE INSPECTORATE GENERAL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF ANGOL HAS PUBLISHED AN ORDER DATED SEPTEMBER 23 RELATING THAT SEVERE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE WHO, WITHOUT ANY JUSTIFICATIONBN ARE PREPARING TO CLOSE THEIR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS "UNDER VARIOUS PRETEXTS AND ONLY WITH THE GOAL OF MAKING WORSE THE ALREADY GREAT PROBLEM OF OUR PEOPLE."

2. THE PENALTY WILL NOT ONLY BE THE CONFISCATION OF THE GOODS AND ASSETTS OF THE COMPANY IN QUESTION, BUT THE COLLECTIVE AND PRIVATE GOODS AND ASSETS OF THE PARTNERS OR OWNERS.

3. COMMENT: MANY BUSINESSES ARE LOSING KEY AND EXPARIEENCED STAFF MEMBERS IN THE EXODUS NOW UNDERWAY IN ANGOLA. THIS IS A SEVERE HARDSHIP PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF BUSINESSES THAT SERVICE OR TECHNICALLY ORIENTED, AS COMPARED WITH RETAIL OR WHOLESALE OUTLETS. IN MANY CASES, BUSINESSES ARE ALREADY CRIPPLED IN THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPERATIONS AND MANY BRANCH OFFICES, ESPECIALLY OUTSIDE

THE MPLA AREAS OF CONTROL HAVE BEEN TOTALLY ABANDONED.

4. IN MOST FIRMS WGRKERS' COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN ELECTED AND THEY DEMAND TO PARTICIPATE IN OR EVEN CONTROL MANAGEMENT. IN MANY CASES, THE ELECTED WORKER-LEADERS ARE, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, THE MOST MILILANT, RADICAL AND VOCAL. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY ARE USUALLY ALSO THE MOST INEXPERIENCED AND THUS COMPOUND CONFUSION BY CONTRIBUTING ONLY HEROIC RHETORIC AND PRESSURING ACTIONS ON MANAGEMENT WHICH JUST MAKE MATTERS WORSE. IN THE SHORT RUN, AT LEAST, ENTERPRISES ARE IN A DILEMA. WITH SEVERLY DEPRESSED SALES, EXCEPT FOR SOME LUXURY ITEM, THAT ARE PORTABLE, BANKING CONFUSION, LABOR DIFFICULTIES, CREDIT PROBLEMS (ALL SALES ARE NOW ON A CASH BASIS) EXTERNAL DEBTS, BLOCKED ASSELS AND TRANSPORTING SYSTEMS THAT ARE BADLY OUT OF ORDER, THERE MUST BE A LOT OF ULCERS IN THE MAKING. IN MANY CASES, PORTUGUESE BUSINESSMEN HAVE SENT THEIR FAMILIES OUT OF ANGOLA AND THEY ARE URGING THE MEN TO LEAVE ALSO. BUT TO CLOSE AND LEAVE MIGHT MEAN TO LOSE EVERYTHING.
KILLORAN

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